



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 20, 2021

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: William A. Pearson, Ed.D., Interim Deputy Superintendent
Division of Educator, Student, and School Supports *WAP*

SUBJECT: Read by Grade Three Educator Survey – **Second Reminder**

In 2016, the Michigan legislature passed the Read by Grade Three (RBG3) law ([MCL 380.1280f](#)). Subsequently, the State Board of Education and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) requested that the Education Policy Innovation Collaborative (EPIC) at Michigan State University work in partnership with MDE and the state's Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI) to engage in a research study of the law. The purpose of this research is to understand the law's effects on student achievement and attainment and how the law is being implemented in schools and districts across the state.

Educator voice is critical to understanding the implementation of the RBG3 law in Michigan. EPIC sent surveys to all K-5 teachers and principals, district superintendents, and early literacy coaches statewide in late March this year to ask about their perspectives on the law. Superintendents and principals should have received additional communication from EPIC and were asked to pass messages along to their K-5 teachers.

MDE encourages all K-5 teachers and principals, superintendents, and literacy coaches to participate. As we continue our work to improve early literacy in Michigan, educator perspectives are critically important to help us achieve that goal.

In April, EPIC published its [first report](#) from the study that relied heavily upon last year's survey results. Results from the report can help inform ongoing efforts to improve early literacy in Michigan.

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • 833-633-5788

We know that educators are always very busy—especially now while wrapping up the school year. The survey will take approximately 25 minutes and educators can receive five state continuing education clock hours (SCECHs) for completing it. Individual responses to the survey will be kept strictly confidential. All responses will be summarized so no individual or school can be identified. The findings from this survey will be used to produce reports for Michigan policymakers and practitioners to develop policy briefs, journal articles, and conference presentations.

This is the second of four educator surveys that are part of a five-year study of the RBG3 law. The study is funded by grants from the U.S. Department of Education Institute for Education Sciences and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. EPIC will conduct educator surveys each year for the first four years of the project. Additionally, EPIC will conduct classroom observations and interviews and examine the impact of RBG3 on student outcomes next school year.

If you have questions about the RBG3 research or the survey, please contact EPIC managing director Emily Mohr at emohr@msu.edu.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors